[5th January 1954

Calendar cases disposed of by the Chief Presidency Magistrate.

* 326 *Q.*—SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(*a*) (i) the number of calendar cases disposed of by the Chief Presidency Magistrate from 1st January to 31st October 1953;

(ii) the number of cases in which only fines were imposed on the accused;

(*b*) (i) the number of those cases in which fines were paid by the accused;

(ii) the number in which fines were not paid; and

(*c*) the number of those cases in which distraint warrants were issued for collecting such fines?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" (*a*) (i) 3,955.

(ii) 3,344.

" (*b*) (i) 2,628.

(ii) 716.

" (*c*) 1."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" This is an important question and I want to put supplementaries."

MR. SPEAKER :—" It is 10-10 a.m. now. I cannot allow supplementaries."

* 327 *Q.*—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : I want this to be taken up to-morrow."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have no objection. Questions over."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR *RE* SLUM IMPROVEMENT (ACQUISITION OF LAND) BILL, 1953.

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have to announce to the House that I have received a message, dated 17th December 1953, from the Governor of Madras—

'In pursuance of Article 207, clause (3) of the Constitution of India, I, Sri Prakasa, Governor of Madras, hereby recommend to the Madras Legislative Assembly the consideration of the Madras Slum Improvement (Acquisition of Land) Bill, 1953. "

10–10 a.m. SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" On a point of information, Sir. May I know how long will the present session continue? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" I think the Hon. Leader of the House may be able to give an answer."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" My expectation is that it will continue till 9th January 1954."

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" But 9th is a holiday. I think the Government have declared 9th January a compensation holiday."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We shall work on the 9th and declare some other day as compensatory holiday."

III.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS PRESERVATION OF PRIVATE FORESTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Madras Preservation of Private Forests (Amendment) Bill [a], 1954, and move—

' *That the Bill be taken into consideration at once* '.

" Sir, the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act was last extended in the year 1951 by Act XIII till 2nd December 1953. It was then thought that a comprehensive piece of legislation regarding the Forest Act would be completed by that time. But that could not be done. The Act expired on 2nd December 1953. So it was necessary to extend the life of the Act and it was done by the issue of an Ordinance on 2nd December 1953. We have now come here to regularize the Ordinance. When the matter is so simple, I am surprised to find one hon. Member, I mean Sri Ramalingam, moving an amendment that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee. I do not know what there is in this Bill to be referred to a Select Committee. What is sought to be done by the present Bill? We simply regularize the Ordinance and extend the life of the parent Act. That is all. There is already a Select Committee which is going into the provisions of the original Act to make suitable improvements. When such is the case, I do not know why an amendment that the present Bill be referred to a Select Committee should be moved."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Motion moved—

' That the Madras Preservation of Private Forests (Amendment) Bill, 1954, be taken into consideration at once.' "

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" I am not moving the amendment I have given notice of to the effect that the present Bill be referred to a Select Committee."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Since the present Bill is one dealing with the preservation of private forests which are found mostly in Malabar and South Kanara, I wish to say a few words regarding how badly this Act is being worked and how it is abused in the actual working of it by the departmental officials. I shall point out the blemishes and pitfalls in the working of it. No doubt this Ordinance merely seeks to extend the life of the previous Act. Beyond that, it does not say anything. No new principle is now being enunciated. How is the Act worked in Malabar and South Kanara? It is well known that those two

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[a] Published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 26th December 1953.